

a soldier's life, was soon slain by his Praetorian prefect, Arrius Aper. But the choice of the army lay upon Diocletian, and he, after stabbing to the heart the man who had cleared his way to the throne, gathered up into his strong hands the reins of power in the autumn of 284. He met in battle the army of Carinus at Margus, in Moesia, during the spring of 285. Carinus was slain by his officers and Diocletian reigned alone.

But he soon found that he needed a colleague to share with him the dangers and the responsibilities of power. He, therefore, raised his lieutenant, Maximian, to the purple, with the title of Caesar, and a few months later gave him the full name and honors of Augustus. There were thus two emperors, two sets of court officials, and two palaces, but the empire ran in the joint name of both Augusti. Then, even still further division seemed advisable, the principle of imperial partnership was extended, and was decided that each Augustus should have a Caesar attached to him. Galerius was promoted to the Caesar of Diocletian; Constantius to be the Caesar of Maximian. Each married the daughter of a senator, and looked forward to becoming Augustus as soon as his superior should die. The plan was by no means perfect, but there was much to be said in its favour. An Emperor like Diocletian,

* nominee of the eastern army alone and the son of a Dalmatian slave, had few, if any, claims upon

* natural loyalty of his subjects.

Himself a suc-

cessful adventurer, he knew that other adventurers

would rise to challenge his position, if they could